Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of Persons (in Thousands)
15.	Meghalaya	2
16.	Mizoram	1
17.	Nagaland	5
18.	Orissa	121
19.	Punjab	81
20.	Rajasthan	61
21.	Sikkim	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	481
23.	Tripura	14
24.	Uttar Pradesh	301
25.	West Bengal	711
26.	A&N Islands	3
27.	Chandigarh	21
28.	D&N Haveli	0
29.	Daman & Diu	1
30.	Delhi	49
31.	Lakshadweep	2
32.	Pondicherry	15
All India		4279

Source:—National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)

Housing Policy

1219. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMET AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's much publicised housing policy to deal with the way to usher in a housing revolution has lately been in doldrums;

(b) if so, what steps have so far, been taken to implement the housing policy at the Central and the States-levels indicating details, State-wise; and

(c) at what stage the matter stands and the reasons and circumstances contributing to the confusion?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Housing & Habitat Policy since approved by the Government and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 1998 envisages Government's role as enabler rather than builder.

Government would create an enabling environment by removing the legal, regulatory and financial constraints facing the Housing Sector. This would help all sections of the Society to gain access to land, finance and technology to obtain shelter for themselves. Government will however, continue to intervene directly for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. The long term goal of this policy is to create surplus in housing stock either on ownership or rental basis. The State Governments are required to draw up their own action plans to address the housing problems in their States.

As a follow up of the National Housing & Habitat Policy several steps have been taken as per details below:—

1. Fiscal incentives under the Income Tax Act and in customs and excise duties have been secured in Union Budget.
2. Legal reforms have been initiated to facilitate housing. The Urban Land Ceiling Act has been repealed through an Ordinance Model Rent Control Legislation has been prepared and circulated among State Governments. States have been advised to adopt it. States have also been advised to amend town planning and building laws to encourage housing. This Ministry is also pursuing amendments to foreclosure laws to facilitate easy foreclosure.
3. The Government through greater interaction with the National Housing Bank and housing finance institutions is seeking to ensure greater private sector participation in the sector. Government is also seeking to further strengthen the

cooperative sector through the National Cooperative Housing Federaction.

4. Government is also seeking to give a boost to housing through the propagation of appropriate cost effective and environment friendly technology.

Poverty Alleviation Schemes

1220. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various poverty alleviation schemes currently in operation;

(b) the amount spent under the various schemes during 1998-99 and proposed to be spent during the current financial year;

(c) whether the impact of the investment in these schemes is assessed periodically and if so, how often; and

(d) the actual effect of these schemes in combating the poverty during 1997-98 and 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) A Centrally sponsored programme called Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation with effect from 1.12.1997. SJSRY seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban poor living below poverty line and educated upto IXth standard for setting up self employment ventures, or provision of wage employment.

(b) For implementation of SJSRY during the year 1998-99 and amount of Rs. 158.47 crores has been allocated as Central share and the entire amount has been released to the States/Union Territories. During the current financial year an amount of Rs. 176.35 crores is proposed to be spent.